

REMARKS

Claims 6, 13, 15-17 and 19-20 have been amended. Claims 6, 11-17 and 19-22 remain for consideration. No new matter has been added.

The undersigned attorney and Examiner Bui had a telephone conference on December 14, 2007 to discuss U.S. Patent 6,611,537 to Edens and the claims of the present application. During the course of the telecon Examiner Bui alleged that the combination of the TV 155 and the MPEG decoder 152 illustrated in FIG. 1 of Edens could be construed as a data sink recited in claim 6. In response, I pointed out that this was not the rejection in the Official Action, and that the rejection in the Official Action merely contends that the claimed data sink either reads on the multimedia PC 170 or the CD/DVD player 160. However, I informed the Examiner that I would review this grounds of rejection. No agreement was reached.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

4-5. Claims 6, 11-17 and 19-22 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter in U.S. Patent 6,611,537 to Edens et al. (hereinafter “Edens”) and U.S. Patent 5,856,975 to Rostoker et al. (hereinafter “Rostoker”).

Claim 6

Claim 6 recites a motor vehicle optical ring network that includes:

“an optical data line configured in a ring network and having a plurality of data channels;

a plurality of data sources each connected to the optical data line, where each of the plurality of data sources provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line and each of the plurality of data sources is free of decoders that provide decompressed multimedia data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink connected to the optical data line and comprising a

video display device, and that receives the compressed multimedia data from the optical data line, where the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide (i) a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof to the video display device and (ii) a decompressed audio signal;

where the at least one data sink also includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed multimedia data, where the format of the received compressed multimedia data may be one of a plurality of compression formats, where the control unit also controls the data channels of the optical data line for transmitting the compressed data between the data sources and the data sink." (emphasis added, cl. 1).

Claim 6 has been amended to include a feature that "*a plurality of data sources each connected to the optical data line, where each of the plurality of data sources provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line and each of the plurality of data sources is free of decoders that provide decompressed multimedia data onto the optical data line*" (cl. 1). Claim 6 has also been amended to include the feature that "*the control unit also controls the data channels of the optical data line for transmitting the compressed data between the data sources and the data sink*" (cl. 1). It is respectfully submitted that the system recited in amended claim 6 would not be obvious to a person of ordinary creativity. Neither Edens nor Rostoker, or the combination of these two references includes the new features of claim 6, including the feature that the control unit also controls the data channels of the optical data lines. As result, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 6 is patentable over the combined teachings of Edens and Rostoker.

Claims 15

Claim 15 recites an optical ring network for use in a motor vehicle. Claim 15 has been amended and it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

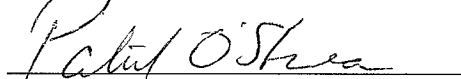
Claim 20

It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is also patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 6, 11-17 and 19-22 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

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